



Study Guide: The Blessed Desire

Sermon Topic: Hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

Link: <https://oregoncitychurch.org/podcasts/media/2026-01-11-the-blessed-desire>

Scripture Focus	Speaker	Date
Matthew 5:6	Ron Murphy	1/11/2026

Opening Thought

In this sermon Ron reminded us that the righteous life is not a casual interest; it is a profound, desperate, and blessed hunger that God promises to satisfy. Use this guide to reflect on this truth and live out the principle of pursuing God's righteousness daily.

Key Scripture for the Week

Matthew 5:6 *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."*

1. Defining the Hunger: How Deep is Your Desire?

Read & Ponder

Read Psalm 42:1-2. What parallels do you see between the psalmist's desire for God and your deepest, most persistent needs?

Reflect

In what areas of your life are you currently *hungering* for a worldly thing (success, comfort, approval)?

How can you intentionally redirect that same desperate energy toward seeking God's righteousness this week?

Practice

Set a reminder to stop and pray **before** you start any major activity this week. Use that time to express a prayer of *desperation*, asking God to align your will with His.

2. Righteousness: External Works vs. Internal Heart

We learned that true righteousness is "inside-out" it's a change of heart, not merely a compliance with external rules.

Read & Ponder

Read Matthew 5:20 and Matthew 23:27. The Pharisees had a righteousness of works; what does Jesus mean when He calls for a greater righteousness?

Reflect

Do you ever feel tempted to confuse being busy with being righteous?

What is one attitude (like impatience or pride) that God is calling you to address this week, knowing that true righteousness starts in the heart?

Practice

When you feel frustrated or tempted to judge someone this week, pause. Acknowledge your reaction and consciously choose a response that reflects the **internal** righteousness of Christ (patience, grace, humility).

3. The Blessed Promise: You Shall Be Filled

The blessing is guaranteed: those who truly hunger *shall* be filled. This reminds us that God is the source and fulfillment of our spiritual need.

Read & Ponder

Read Romans 3:21-24. How does the truth that God credits Christ's righteousness to you change your daily pursuit?

How does it make it less about earning and more about receiving?

Reflect

What specific promise in the Bible can you claim this week to address a feeling of spiritual emptiness or inadequacy?

Identify one area where you are trusting God to fill you with His grace instead of trying to fill yourself with other things.

Practice

Spend time simply thanking God for the righteousness He has provided through Jesus. When you feel a spiritual need, actively remind yourself of the promise: *"I shall be filled, because I am hungering for the only thing that truly satisfies."*

Closing Thought

The pursuit of righteousness is a joyful marathon, not a frantic sprint. Be gentle with yourself, knowing that the desire itself is the first sign of God's work in your life.